2008-00870/

BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2002FOR0054-000619
Aug. 1, 2002

Ministry of Forests

TIMBER SALE LICENCE MEANS FIRST NATION JOBS

FORT RUPERT – A seven-year timber sale licence awarded to the Quatsino, Kwakiutl and Tlatlasikwala First Nations will increase local economic growth and employment, Forests Minister Michael De Jong said today.

"The joint application for the licence balanced economic benefit with environmental protection," said de Jong. "This licence will result in harvesting, silviculture and other forestry jobs for First Nations. It will also create wood flow to local mills, which will benefit communities including Quatsino, Fort Rupert and Port Hardy."

De Jong said the government is committed to revitalizing B.C.'s forest sector and welcomes the involvement of First Nations. "This licence is an example of First Nations developing opportunities in the forest sector with the support of local industry."

The goals for this timber sale licence included encouraging participation of local communities, including First Nations, in managing forest resources. The timber sale licence was also aimed at creating forestry jobs and training.

Timber Sale Licence A66259 authorizes an allowable annual cut of 43,345 cubic metres of timber from Tree Farm Licence 6 in the Port McNeill forest district.

-30-

Contact: Karen Brandt
Communications Branch
Ministry of Forests
250 387-8546

Visit the province's Web site at http://www.gov.bc.ca/ for online information and services.